

Message Text

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60

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 EB-11 AID-20 EUR-25

DRC-01 NIC-01 /191 W

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R 021540Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6944

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 4965

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS:

SUBJECT: CALL ON CHINESE AMBASSADOR TSAO CHIH

1. SUMMARY. CHINESE AMBASSADOR TO NEPAL, TSAO CHIH, RECEIVED ME NOVEMBER 30 IN COURTESY CALL CONSEQUENT TO MY RECENT ARRIVAL IN KATHMANDU. NO NEW SUBSTANCE EMERGED DURING AFFABLE HALF-HOUR CONVERSATION, BUT CHINESE AMBASSADOR STATED POSITIVE VIEW OF THE SECRETARY'S RECENT VISIT TO CHINA AND OF THE DEVELOPING US-PRC RELATIONSHIP. TSAO CHIH INDICATED HE WOULD PAY RETURN CALL FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM TRIP TO PEKING DURING UPCOMING VISIT OF KING BIRENDRA TO CHINA. FACT OF CHINESE ACCEPTANCE OF THIS DEGREE OF NORMAL PROTOCOL FORMALITY IN OUR LOCAL BILATERAL RELATIONS MAY BE OF SOME INTEREST. IT MAY ALSO PRESAGE SOMEWHAT BROADER CONTACTS BETWEEN THE EMBASSY AND THE LARGE AND IMPORTANT CHINESE MISSION TO NEPAL. END SUMMARY.

2. REFLECTING, I AM SURE, THE CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT IN US-PRC RELATIONS, CHINESE AMBASSADOR TO NEPAL, TSAO CHIH, RECEIVED ME NOVEMBER 30 IN RESPONSE TO MY EARLIER REQUEST AS NEW ARRIVAL IN KATHMANDU TO PAY COURTESY CALL ON HIM.

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3. HE RECEIVED ME ALONE EXPECT FOR HIS INTERPRETER (AMBASSADOR TSAO SPEAKS VERY LITTLE ENGLISH ALTHOUGH I JUDGE HE UNDERSTANDS A FAIR BIT) IN LARGE RECEPTION ROOM OF EMBASSY BUILDING IN CHINESE EMBASSY COMPOUND. AMBASSADOR TSAO WAS COURTEOUS, EVEN AFFABLE, BUT HALF-HOUR CONVERSATION PRODUCED NO NEW SUBSTANCE. THE AMBASSADOR WAS POSITIVE ON THE RESULTS OF THE SECRETARY'S NOVEMBER VISIT TO CHINA, DESCRIBING IT AS A FURTHER STEP IN STRENGTHENING RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND IN EXPANDING CONTACTS BETWEEN OUR TWO PEOPLES. AMBASSADOR TSAO MADE PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE LENGTH OF THE SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH MAO, A FACT WHICH HAD OBVIOUSLY IMPRESSED HIM. I DO NOT HAVE THE IMPRESSION HE WAS ESPECIALLY INFORMED ON THE SUBSTANCE.

4. ON KING BIRENDRA'S FORTHCOMING STATE VISIT TO CHINA (DEC. 7-14), TSAO SAID HE WAS WORKING HARD ON THIS, WOULD BE IN PEKING FOR THE VISIT, BELIEVED CHINA WOULD CONTINUE ITS PROGRAM OF ASSISTANCE TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN NEPAL, AND EXPECTED THE KING'S VISIT TO STRENGTHEN THE TIES BETWEEN CHINA AND NEPAL, A DEMONSTRATION THAT GOOD RELATIONS ARE POSSIBLE BETWEEN STATES OF DIFFERING SOCIAL SYSTEMS.

5. HE MADE BRIEF, LOW-KEY REFERENCES TO THE BREZHNEV VISIT TO INDIA, SAYING THAT "SOME NEPALESE" BELIEVED SOVIETS ARE SEEKING NAVAL FACILITIES IN INDIA. HE THOUGHT THE EMPHASIS REPORTED IN THE PRESS ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AS AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF BREZHNEV'S TALKS IN INDIA WAS "LOGICAL IN VIEW OF INDIA'S DIFFICULT INTERNAL PROBLEMS."

6. AMBASSADOR TSAO HAD NOTED THAT HE AND I HAD BOTH BEEN VISITING THE TERAJ AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME TEN DAYS AGO AND WE EXCHANGED BRIEF COMMENTS ON THIS, WHICH DID NOT GET BEYOND THE TRAVELOGUE STAGE.

7. AS I DEPARTED AMBASSADOR TSAO MADE A SPECIAL POINT OF SAYING THAT BECAUSE OF HIS PRESENT PREOCCUPATION WITH PREPARATIONS FOR THE KING'S VISIT TO CHINA AND HIS EXPECTED TRIP TO PEKING FOR THE VISIT, HE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO PAY HIS RETURN CALL UNTIL LATER.

8. COMMENT: THE ACCEPTANCE BY THE CHINESE AMBASSADOR OF AN
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EXCHANGE OF FORMAL DIPLOMATIC CALLS SUGGESTS SOME SOFTENING OF THE CHINESE POSITION LOCALLY WITH RESPECT TO THE BILATERAL RELATIONS OF THE TWO MISSIONS IN KATHMANDU. THERE MAY NOW BE A BASIS FOR SOME BROADENING OF CONTACTS BETWEEN THE EMBASSY AND THE CHINESE MISSION, WHICH HAVE ESSENTIALLY BEEN CASUAL SOCIAL CONTACTS IN THE CONTEXT OF SOME DIPLOMATIC CORPS ACTIVITY OF GENERAL SOCIAL OR PROTOCOL FUNCTION.
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